

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Bureau of State Security of North Korea

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1. The North Korean security police are divided into two sections, both under the Ministry of Internal Affairs: (1) the National Police, with the usual police powers and overt functions, and (2) the Political Defense (State Security) Group, which handles internal security and has powers of search, arrest, and imprisonment.
2. The latter group's exact size is unknown, but it is large enough to have a headquarters in each military installation. At Wonsan, for example, a Lieutenant commander is in charge, with ten to fifteen officers and fifteen enlisted clerks under him. One of the officers, Lt. MON, is described as stupid but a good Communist. Being a good Communist is the primary qualification for a State Security assignment. Personnel are selected from both civilians and military.
3. After training, State Security personnel are assigned to military and other services. They use only official titles of the overt service to which they are attached and assume false names, but their identity with the security service is usually known to most of the officers of the groups to which they are attached. They wear the uniform of the unit with which they are working; only the highest ranking State Security officers wear the green shoulder board which is the State Security emblem.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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